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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
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BASIC IMAGERY INTERPRETATION REPORT

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY IN CUBA



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Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

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RCA-25/5002/71

APRIL 1971

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY IN CUBA

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INTRODUCTION

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1. This report summarizes significant intelligence information derived from U-2 aerial surveillance over Cuba during the reporting period [redacted] photographic missions were flown during this period, a significant increase over the three previous [redacted] periods [redacted] This increase was due in part to a need for surveillance of accelerated Soviet naval activity in Cuba, particularly in the Cienfuegos area.

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2. The reporting period began [redacted] and frequency of coverage was maintained at a normal pace [redacted] Increased frequency of coverage began [redacted] and continued through the period cutoff date. The latest photography on which this report is based was obtained [redacted] A target list of the principal installations mentioned in this report is presented in Table 1. For information concerning the previous reporting period see the NPIC report, Summary of Activity in Cuba [redacted]

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3. Significant events and activities in Cuba observed on [redacted] photography during this reporting period included the following:

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- a. Visits of two Soviet naval task groups to Cuban ports;
- b. Activity indicating that the Soviets were establishing a submarine deployment facility at Cienfuegos;
- c. Evacuation of all SA-2 SAM launch sites in eastern Cuba;
- d. Improvement of facilities at a majority of the active SA-2 SAM launch sites;
- e. Completion, by the Cubans, of the construction of security fencing around US Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay;
- f. The fourth visit by Soviet TU-95 BEAR D ELINT reconnaissance aircraft to Cuba;
- g. Continuing construction of an unidentified facility just north of La Rosita Arms Factory.

ACTIVITY IN THE CIENFUEGOS AREA

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4. Soviet naval activity, various actions to strengthen air and coastal defenses, and certain construction activities in the Cienfuegos Bay area indicated that the Soviets were probably establishing a submarine deployment facility at Cienfuegos. Selected activities that led to this conclusion are summarized in this report. A detailed chronological listing of these activities as observed on [redacted] photography [redacted] has already been published in an NPIC report.²

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Soviet Naval Activity--The First Naval Task Group

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5. The Cienfuegos area began to attract attention early [redacted] when a Soviet naval task group visited Cienfuegos Port Facilities and Cienfuegos Naval Base. This task group was first observed at Cienfuegos on photography [redacted] The [redacted] task group consisted of the following:

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One Kresta-I-class guided-missile cruiser (CLGM)
 One Kanin-class guided-missile destroyer (DDG)
 One Alligator-class landing ship tank (LST)
 One Ugra-class submarine tender (AS)
 One Sura-class buoy tender (AGL)
 One Leningrad-class tanker
 One Okhtenskiy-class rescue tug (ATR)
 Two special-purpose barges

6. [redacted] Sura-class buoy tender (AGL) was apparently engaged in buoy placement activity in Cienfuegos Bay [redacted] days later it was moored stern to O'Burke Pier and appeared to be onloading or off-loading probable buoy anchors.

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7. On sequential photographic coverage [redacted] the Ugra-class submarine tender (AS) was observed approaching and later moored fast to a four-point mooring site in Cienfuegos Bay. Submarine nets had been emplaced [redacted] across the approach to the deep-water basin in which the mooring site and the submarine tender were situated.

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8. The two special-purpose barges, which are believed to be associated with the maintenance of nuclear-powered submarines, apparently had been transported from the USSR to Cuba. Two such barges were photographed in transit on the deck of an Alligator LST off the Norwegian coast [redacted] (Figure 1) [redacted] the two special-purpose barges were tied to the port quarter of the Ugra AS at the four-point mooring site in Cienfuegos Bay (Figure 2). The [redacted] mission [redacted] covered Cienfuegos Bay [redacted] and the positions of the Ugra AS and the barges remained the same. The anti-submarine net, however, changed positions. When covered the first two times, one section of the net was open to seaward, and on the last two times the same section was open toward the Ugra AS. In all instances the Okhtenskiy ATR was tending the net (Figure 2).

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9. [redacted] the two special-purpose barges were observed at a small pier at Cayo Ocampo in the southeastern part of Cienfuegos Bay, and they remained at this location [redacted] When next observed [redacted] the two barges were at Cienfuegos Naval Base where they stayed throughout the remainder of the reporting period.

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10. The Ugra AS and the Okhtenskiy ATR left Cienfuegos after being seen [redacted] These ships were observed at various locations within Mariel Harbor on photography [redacted] and they were next seen at Cienfuegos [redacted] the Ugra AS was at Casilda Port Facilities 35 nautical miles (nm) southeast of Cienfuegos, but returned to Cienfuegos [redacted] It remained in the Caribbean area and was seen later with the second Soviet naval task group.

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Second Soviet Naval Task Group

11. The second Soviet naval task group to visit Cuba during the [redacted] reporting period was first observed on [redacted] photography [redacted] At that time the task group was at Antilla Port Facilities in the Bay of Nipe on the northeastern coast of Cuba (Figure 3). The Ugra AS was also in that port when the naval task group was first seen. The task group consisted of the following:

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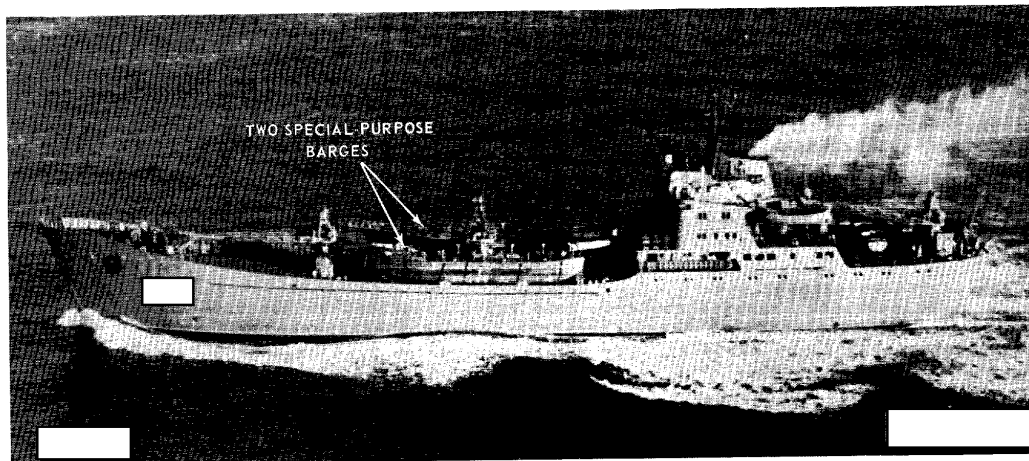


FIGURE 1. SOVIET ALLIGATOR LST OFF NORWEGIAN COAST

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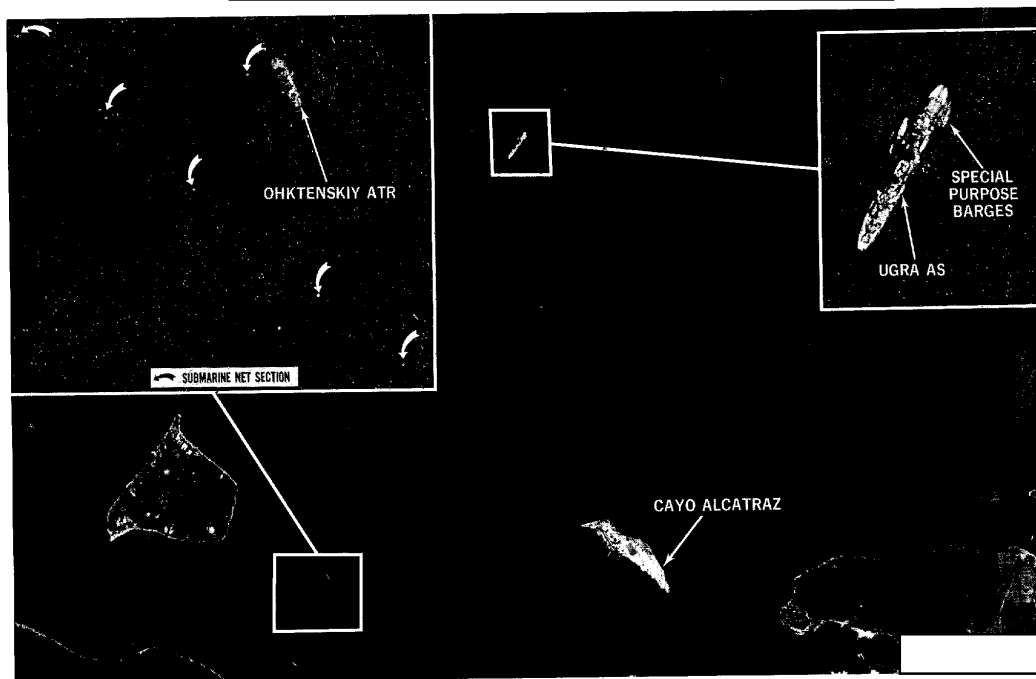


FIGURE 2. SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY IN CIENFUEGOS BAY, CUBA

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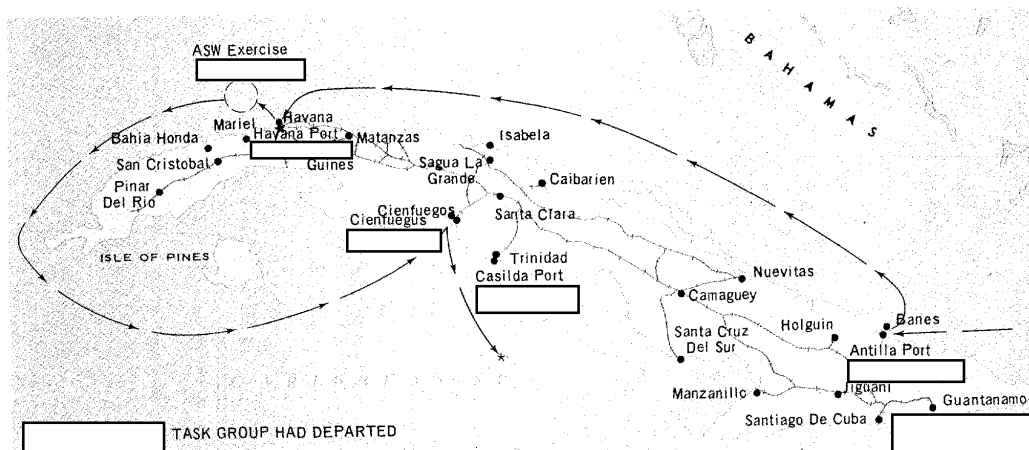


FIGURE 3. SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY

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One F-class submarine (SS)

One Kashin-class guided-missile frigate (DLG)

One Uda-class naval oiler (AO)

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12. [] Ugra AS was observed at its previous location at Antilla Port. At that time, the Kashin DLG, two Kronshtadt-class submarine chasers (PC), and one SO-1-class submarine chaser (SC) were observed underway at a position approximately 20 nm north-northeast of the entrance to the Bay of Nipe.

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13. The task group was next sighted at Havana Port [] A probable F-class submarine was identified lying in deep shadow alongside the Ugra AS.

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14. [] an antisubmarine warfare (ASW) exercise was apparently underway about 8 nm north of the entrance to Mariel Harbor. This exercise involved both Soviet and Cuban ships consisting of a Soviet F SS, a Kashin DLG, a Kronshtadt PC, and three SO-1 SC. The submarine was dead in the water, and the other ships were under-way in the vicinity. Meanwhile, the Ugra AS and the Uda AO were in Havana Port.

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15. [] the ships of the task force were at Cienfuegos except for the Uda AO which was at Casilda Port Facilities. The F-class submarine was lying in deep shadow alongside the Ugra AS. The task group had departed from the Cienfuegos area

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Miscellaneous Naval Activity

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16. The Soviet space event support ship [] visited the Havana and Cienfuegos ports during the reporting period. When seen at Cienfuegos [] this ship was tied fast to the four-point mooring site in the harbor. A Soviet Sumara-class naval hydrographic survey ship (AGS) also visited both ports []

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Other Activity, Cienfuegos Area

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17. Extensive construction activity took place [] on Cayo Alcatraz, a small island in Cienfuegos Bay near the harbor entrance (Figure 4). New facilities which appeared to be complete [] included two barracks-type buildings, a tennis court, basketball and volley-ball courts, and a soccer field.

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18. Certain defensive and electronics activities were also observed in the Cienfuegos Bay area during the [] period. In brief, the principal activities were as follows. Unvetted, occupied, six-position antiaircraft artillery (AAA) sites were deployed around the harbor perimeter. Field artillery pieces were positioned along the coast in the vicinity of the harbor entrance, and a probable field artillery firing range was prepared along a ridge situated east of the harbor entrance. Coastal surveillance radars were emplaced at the previously unoccupied Cienfuegos Radar Facility 2. Construction of a possible communications facility on the eastern edge of Cienfuegos Bay, on Punta de la Cueva, was begun [] but was apparently abandoned after only preliminary work had been accomplished.

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SA-2 SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE ACTIVITY

Change in SAM Deployment Pattern

19. A change in the deployment pattern of occupied SA-2 surface-to-air missile (SAM) launch sites took place in Cuba during

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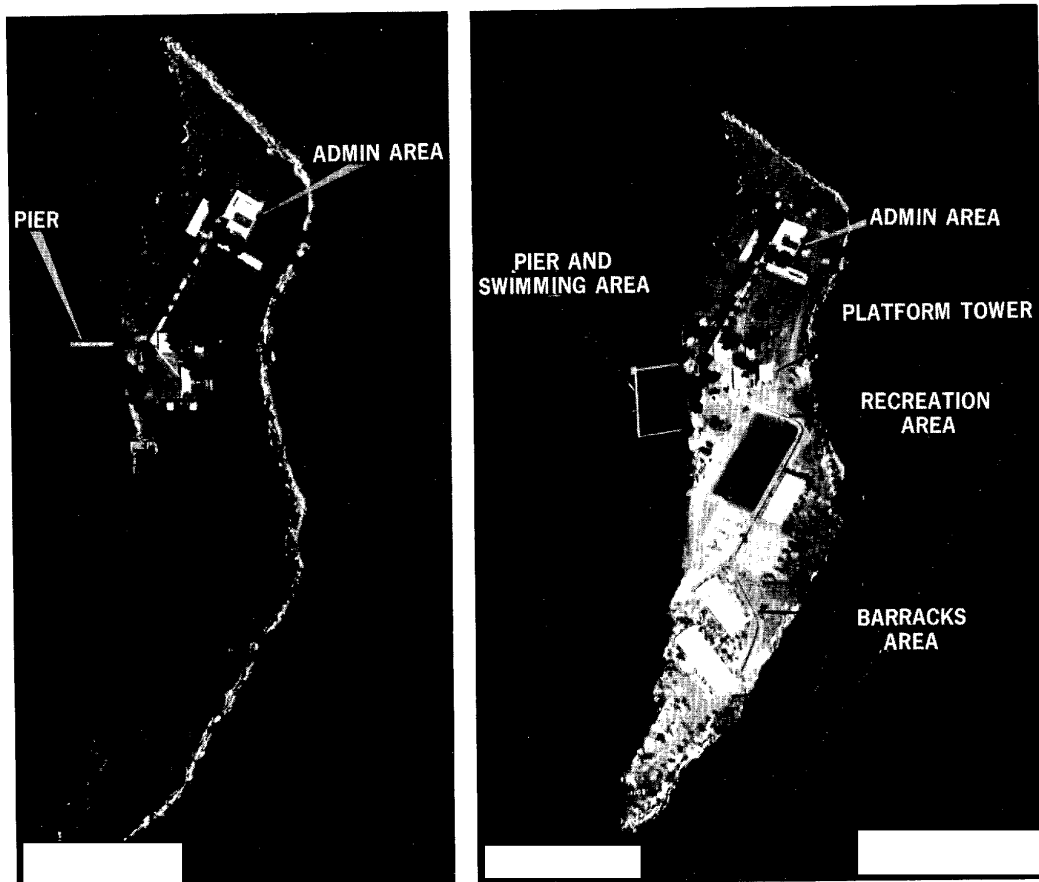


FIGURE 4. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY ON CAYO ALCATRAZ IN CIENFUEGOS BAY

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this reporting period [redacted] the four occupied SAM launch sites in eastern Cuba were vacated (except for some equipment that remained in the support area of one site), and [redacted] an increase in the amount of SAM equipment was noted in western Cuba, particularly in the Havana area. At the close of the reporting period, 17 SA-2 SAM launch sites remained occupied (Figure 5 and Table 1). Six were deployed in an outer arc pattern around the Havana area; seven were deployed within the outer arc closer to Havana; three were in the Santa Clara area, and one was near Cienfuegos.

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Situation in Eastern Cuba

20. Prior [redacted] four occupied SA-2 SAM launch sites had been identified in eastern Cuba. These sites were all east of Santa Clara which is at 22-30-16N 076-56-58W, the approximate center of the island. The sites were:

Palma Soriano SAM Site A02-2 [redacted]

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La Maya SAM Site A35-2 [redacted]

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Holguin SAM Site West B27-2 [redacted]

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Santiago de Cuba SAM Site A18-2 [redacted]

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[redacted] SA-2 missiles, transporters, and electronic equipment had been removed from both the launch sites and the onsite support areas, except that some equipment was still in the support area at the Holguin site [redacted]. All four sites were covered [redacted] and all remained [redacted]

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unoccupied. Two SA-2 SAM support facilities in eastern Cuba, however, remained active. These were Santiago de Cuba Missile Support Facility SAM 2 and the former San Pedro de Cacocum SAM Site A06-2 in the Holguin area, the function of which has been changed to that of a SAM support facility. SA-2 missile and component canisters were present at both of these facilities [REDACTED]

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Increased SAM Equipment in Western Cuba

21. [REDACTED] SA-2 SAM-associated equipment was sighted in transit at a rail spur (a transshipment point) just southeast of Havana near Siboney at 23-05-09N 082-17-12W (Figure 6).

22. An increase in the number of SA-2 launchers was observed in the Havana area at El Cano SAM Training Site [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Twenty-five launchers were observed at this site [REDACTED] as compared with the normal count of five or six.

23. Six SA-2 launchers and other SAM-related equipment were newly observed [REDACTED] along a road adjacent to occupied La Habana SAM Fort de la Cabana A03-2. Netting had been placed within three of the six launch positions (Figure 7).

Construction Activity at SAM Sites

24. [REDACTED] a revetted SA-2 SAM launch site was constructed adjacent to the unrevetted, occupied Punta Brava SAM Site A30-2. When completed, the revetted site was occupied, probably by equipment transferred from the unrevetted site which was vacated.

25. Shelters were built within drive-through missile-hold revetments and in guidance areas of a majority of the active Cuban SAM launch sites, an activity that began early in [REDACTED] and continued during this reporting period. Also, vehicle and equipment storage buildings or support buildings were built in the on-site support areas of the SAM sites (Figure 8). The structures were apparently designed to protect equipment from the weather, but in effect they will serve to conceal much of the order of battle that has been visible at Cuban SAM sites in the past.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN CENTRAL CUBA

26. Construction continued during this reporting period on a large shop- or assembly-type building at 22-09-20N 080-04-35W. This location is about 1 nm north of La Rosita Arms Factory and 17 nm southwest of Santa Clara in central Cuba.

BEACH AND SHORELINE DEFENSES

27. Existing shoreline defenses were improved and new beach defenses were constructed in Cuba during this reporting period. Such defenses were observed east and west of Havana, east of Mantanzas, at Cienfuegos, and west of Santiago de Cuba. Most of these defense systems consist of a trench network with a centrally located command bunker and some artillery positions.

CUBAN FENCING AROUND GUANTANAMO

28. Construction of permanent security fencing around US Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, was completed by the Cubans during this reporting period (Figure 9). Construction was first observed [REDACTED] west of the base.

29. The fence consists of three parallel fences. A hard-surfaced gravel road has been constructed between the fences nearest Cuban territory. Observation towers and command posts are at several points along the fence.

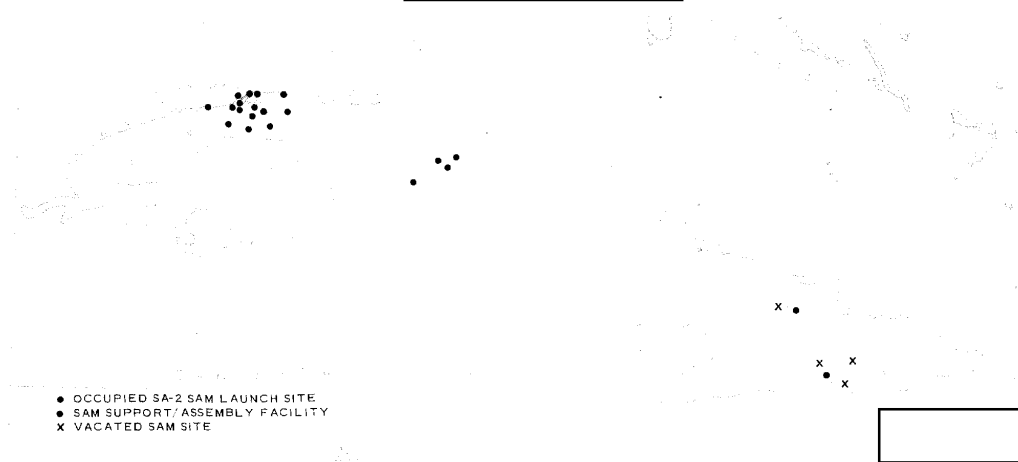
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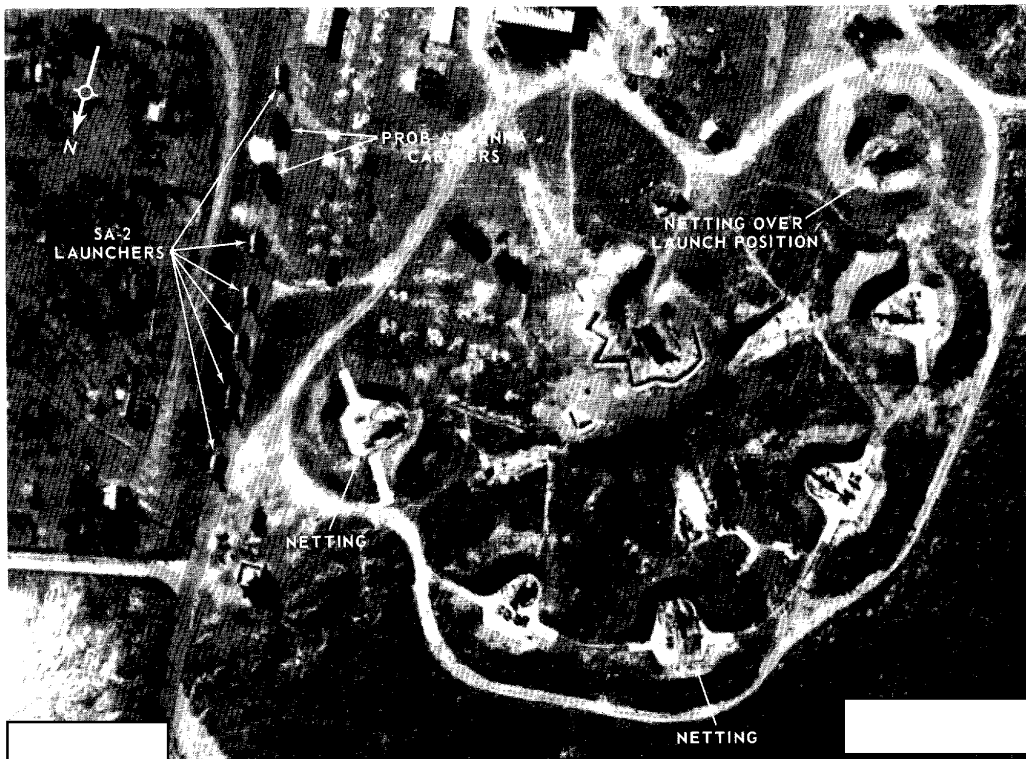
FIGURE 5. SA-2 SAM DEPLOYMENT IN CUBA

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FIGURE 6. RAIL TRANSSHIPMENT POINT NEAR SIBONEY, CUBA



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FIGURE 7. LA HABANA SAM FORT DE LA CABANA A03-3, CUBA

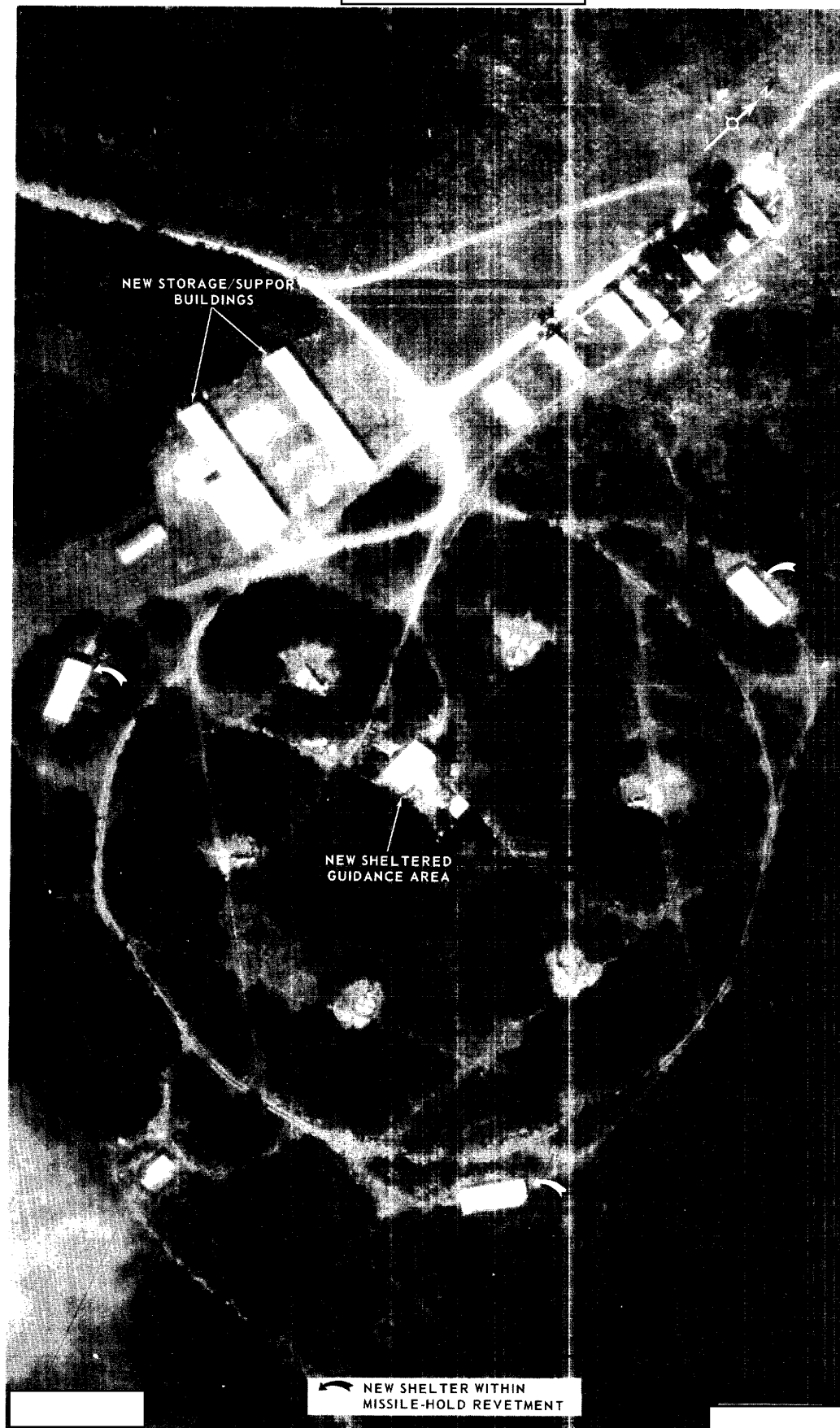
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FIGURE 8. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT GUARA SAM SITE A29-2, CUBA

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FIGURE 9. CUBAN FENCE AROUND US NAVAL BASE, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA

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BEAR D AIRCRAFT VISIT CUBA

30. Two TU-95 BEAR D aircraft, which are classified as Soviet ELINT reconnaissance aircraft, paid a visit to Havana during the month [redacted]. This was the fourth visit by this type of aircraft [redacted]. The first visit [redacted] and the second and third visits [redacted].

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CUBAN ORDER OF BATTLE

Electronics Order of Battle

31. With the increase in activity at Cienfuegos, two SHEET BEND radars were installed at Cienfuegos Radar Facility 2. This facility had been unoccupied [redacted]. The BIG MESH radar at Antonio Maceo Airfield near Santiago de Cuba was dismantled during the latter part of the reporting period. In eastern Cuba, where all SA-2 SAM launch sites were vacated [redacted] the air warning facilities remained occupied.

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Air Order of Battle

32. No increase in the Cuban aircraft order of battle and no new hangar construction were noted during this reporting period.

Naval Order of Battle

33. No increase to the Cuban naval order of battle was noted during this [redacted] period.

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Military Ground Activity

34. Military ground order of battle remained unchanged throughout the reporting period. No new defensive or offensive ground weapons systems were identified.

35. Sixty-eight tanks were observed [redacted] at San Pedro Military Training Area, 13.5 nm southwest of Artimesa. In the target area, eight tanks were on target ranges, and 30 other tanks in that area were canvas covered. Thirteen tanks (seven parked, six moving) were in an open area east of the target, and 17 tanks (16 canvas covered) were parked in a support and maintenance area.

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Table 1. List of Targets

Name	Coordinates	
<u>SAM Installations</u> *		
Alquizar SAM Site A30-2	22-49-26N 082-38-37W	
Campo Florido SAM Site A07-2	23-09-17N 082-02-22W	
El Cano SAM Site 2	23-03-27N 082-29-21W	
Guara SAM Site A29-2	22-48-42N 082-13-39W	
Holguin SAM Site West B27-2**	20-51-00N 076-27-45W	
La Cachimba SAM Site A12-2	22-45-02N 082-27-16W	
La Salud SAM Site A04-2	22-53-05N 082-24-41W	
Managua SAM Site A05-2	22-59-42N 082-15-58W	
Maribel SAM Site A30-2	23-00-48N 082-48-49W	
Punta Brava SAM Site A30-2	23-01-32N 082-31-34W	

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Table 1. (Cont'd). List of Targets

Name	Coordinates	
Ranchuelo SAM Site A33-2	22-23-50N 080-10-02W	
Santa Clara SAM Site A34-2	22-29-00N 080-00-00W	
Santiago de Cuba SAM Site A18-2**	19-58-45N 075-49-22W	
Santiago de Cuba Msl Sup Fac SAM 2***	20-04-14N 075-53-36W	
Torrens Msl Sup Fac SAM***	22-57-48N 082-27-53W	
Santa Isabel de Las Lajas SAM Site A35-2	22-28-20N 080-18-47W	
Palma Soriano SAM Site A02-2**	20-15-24N 075-59-13W	
La Catalina SAM Site A34-21	22-58-18N 082-00-11W	
Santiago de Las Sup Fac SAM***	22-57-40N 082-21-30W	
Constancia SAM Site A10-2	22-14-19N 080-30-33W	
San Pedro de Cacocum SAM Sup Area***	20-45-45N 076-15-40W	
La Maya SAM Site A35-2**	20-14-09N 075-40-46W	
Punta Ballenatos SAM Site A26-2	23-04-40N 082-29-45W	
La Habana SAM Fort de la Cabana A03-2	23-08-55N 082-20-26W	
La Esperanza SAM Assembly Area***	22-27-23N 080-08-40W	
La Habana SAM Site Cojimar A08	23-09-08N 082-17-18W	
El Cano SAM Training Area	23-03-27N 082-29-00W	
<u>Naval Facilities</u>		
Maribel Port Facilities	22-59-42N 082-45-16W	
Cienfuegos Port Facilities	22-08-25N 080-27-20W	
Cienfuegos Naval Base	22-09-03N 080-27-20W	
Cayo Alcatraz Naval Sup Fac	22-05-39N 080-26-17W	
Cienfuegos Radar Facility 2	22-02-26N 080-25-23W	
Havana Port Facilities	23-07-50N 082-20-50W	
Antilla Port Facilities	20-49-25N 075-44-38W	
Casilda Port Facilities	21-45-22N 079-59-30W	
<u>Other Facilities</u>		
La Rosita Arms Factory and Storage Depot	22-08-30N 080-04-22W	
San Pedro Mil Training	22-38-22N 082-54-00W	

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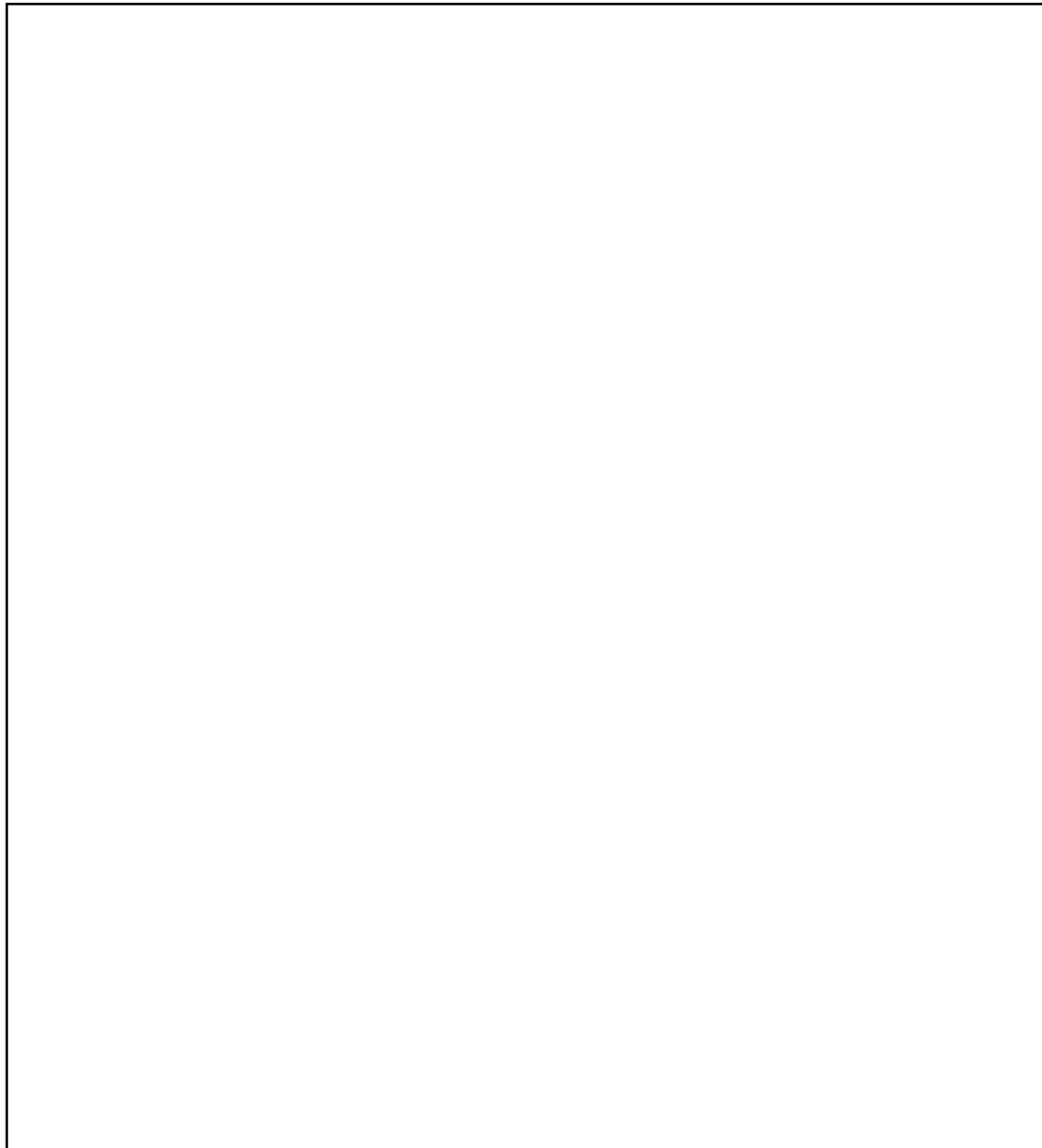
*All SA-2 SAM sites listed were occupied unless otherwise noted.
 **Vacated SA-2 SAM launch site.
 ***Occupied SAM support facility.

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2. NPIC. R-72/70, Recapitulation of Photo Reconnaissance over Cienfuegos [redacted] Dec 70 (SECRET)
3. NPIC. R-64/70, High-Bay Building at La Rosita Arms Factory, Cuba, Nov 70 (SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

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NPIC/IEG/WGD/MEAFAB Project 221900AA

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